

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #65-13

Building Date: ca. 1915

Building Name: Green Hill Overseer's House

Location: 6606 22nd Place, Hyattsville, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Green Hill Overseer's House is a one-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame dwelling of the Colonial Revival style. It consists of a three-by-two-bay main block with a slightly lower kitchen wing extending to the south. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay east facade through a four-panelled door with two windows above. The east facade is sheltered by a one-story shed-roof porch and the porch is supported on slim Tuscan columns and has returned molded cornices flared at the eaves. The east front is differentiated from the other facades in that it is stuccoed and painted white (all other facades are sided with plain horizontal lapped board, painted white). The corner boards are in the form of pilasters. The cornice is boxed with crown molding, and is returned at the gable ends. Two gable-roof dormers pierce the east plane of the roof. An exterior corbelled brick chimney rises at the ridge at each gable end, stone below the weatherings at the north gable end. The rear (west) facade has an entrance in the third bay, sheltered by a hip-roof one-story entry porch with plain square posts. Extending to the south, flush with the west facade, is a one-by-two bay kitchen wing.

Significance:

The Green Hill Overseer's House is a classic example of early twentieth century Colonial Revival architecture. It stands in the eastern section of what was once the Green Hill estate. This dwelling was built as an overseer's house for the Riggs family's 340 acre farm, known as Green Hill. The farm was sold in 1863 to George W. Riggs, founder of the Riggs National Bank. The subject house was built in the early years of this century for the overseer of the Green Hill farm, during the ownership of Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr. It is a particularly fine example of the Colonial Revival style dwelling, with deeply flared eaves, pilastered corner boards, pedimented dormers and integral porch. Elisha Riggs had served as a lieutenant Colonel and military attache to Russia during the First World War, and as a special representative of President Wilson for peace negotiations after the Armistice. After 1920 Riggs settled at the Green Hill Farm, consolidating the 600-acre farm of his grandfather, and developing a model dairy farm. It was at approximately this time that the subject house was constructed as a residence for the farm overseer, Howard Crandell. In 1963 forty acres, including the mansion and the overseer's house, were sold to the Congregation of Resurrectionist Fathers to be used as a novitiate. The current owners purchased the house in 1957. This is an outstanding example of a Colonial Revival house which mimics a type of eighteenth century vernacular dwelling of the Tidewater region. Although somewhat obscured by landscaping, it is a landmark in its community and a visual reminder of the early twentieth century prominence of Green Hill Farm.

Acreage: 8,050 square feet

Magi No.

DOE yes no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Green Hill Overseer's House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6606 22nd Place not for publication

city, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Herbert Foster

street & number 6606 22nd Place telephone no.:

city, town Hyattsville, state and zip code Maryland 20782

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 2142

street & number Main Street folio 445

city, town Upper Marlboro, state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #65-13

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Green Hill Overseer's House is a one-and-one-half-story gable-roof frame dwelling of the Colonial Revival style. It consists of a three-bay-by-two-bay main block with a slightly lower kitchen wing extending to the south. It stands on high ground on a landscaped terrace (now surrounded by subdivision housing) above and overlooking Maryland Route 410 (East-West Highway).

The main block faces east; entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay east facade through a four-panelled door with two windows above. The east facade is sheltered by a one-story shed-roof porch, the roof of which is integral with that of the main block. The porch is supported on slim Tuscan columns, and has deeply returned molded cornices flared at the eaves. The east front is differentiated from the other facades in that it is stuccoed and painted white (all other facades are sided with plain horizontal lapped board, painted white). The corner boards are in the form of pilasters.

Windows are 6/6 double hung sash with narrow molded surrounds, and, on the first story of the east facade, have red louvered shutters. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle; the cornice is boxed with crown molding, and is returned at the gable ends. At all gable ends the eaves are slightly flared. Two gable-roof dormers pierce the east plane of the roof; each dormer has a small 6/6 window surmounted by a molded pediment. An exterior corbelled brick chimney rises at the ridge at each gable end. The chimney on the south is enclosed by a kitchen wing, while that on the north is constructed of gray stone and has weatherings at first and second story; above the upper weatherings, the north chimney is built of brick. The foundation of the building is of the same stone, and encloses a full basement.

The rear (west) facade has an entrance in the third bay, sheltered by a hip-roof one-story entry porch with plain square posts. For most of the length of this west facade, the pitch of the roof is shallower than that of the east plane, thus raising the upper level windows to a full second story.

There is a round-arched window at second-story level in the second bay of the south facade, just east of the enclosed chimney.

Extending to the south, flush with the west facade, is a one-bay-by-two-bay kitchen wing. The planes of its gable roof are of uneven pitch, with the result that the cornice return in the southwest is higher than that in the southeast. Construction details of the wing are the same as those of the main block, including the flared eaves, and the pilastered corner posts. There is an entrance into the wing on its east facade.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #65-13

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1915 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Green Hill Overseer's House is a classic example of early twentieth century Colonial Revival architecture. It stands in the eastern section of what was once the Green Hill estate, now bounded by 1950's subdivision housing, a prominent landmark on the East-West Highway.

This dwelling was built as an overseer's house for the Riggs family farm, known as Green Hill. This 340-acre farm, part of Chillum Castle Manor (the estate of William Dudley Digges) was sold in 1863 to George W. Riggs, founder of the Riggs National Bank.¹ Riggs rebuilt the old Digges homestead, and it became the home of his son, Elisha Francis Riggs, and his grandson of the same name.

The subject house was built in the early years of this century for the overseer of the Green Hill farm, during the ownership of Elisha Francis Riggs, Jr. It is a particularly fine example of the Colonial Revival style dwelling, with deeply flared eaves, pilastered corner boards, pedimented dormers and integral porch. It stood circa 400 feet east of the Green Hill Mansion, at the edge of the hill which sloped away from the mansion, and surrounded by the large acreage of the Riggs' dairy farm. Elisha Riggs had served as a lieutenant Colonel and military attache to Russia during the First World War, and as a special representative of President Wilson for peace negotiations after the Armistice. After 1920 he settled at the Green Hill Farm, consolidating the 600-acre farm of his grandfather, and developing a model dairy farm.² It was at approximately this time that the subject house was constructed as a residence for the farm overseer (Howard Crandell).

Colonel Riggs was assassinated in February 1936 in Puerto Rico, and his estate was divided and sold within that year;² forty acres, including the mansion and the overseer's house, were sold to the Congregation of Resurrectionist Fathers to be used as a novitiate.³ In 1951 the Resurrectionist Fathers sold four acres, including the overseer's house, to the Riggs Terrace Corporation, and the land was subdivided and developed as a

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.P.G. #65-13

Cf. Notes, Item #8.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8,050 square feet
Quadrangle name Washington East, Section A

Tax Map 41, Block G

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission c/o County Planning Div., M-NCPPC	date	September 1986
street & number	14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., Rm. 4010	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro,	state	Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. P.G. #65-13

Description (continued)

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The overseer's house stands to the east of the Green Hill Mansion, on terraced landscaped grounds. The grounds are bounded by a stone retaining wall on the east, and a white picket fence on east, north, and south. To the rear, the terraced garden rises gradually westward toward the mansion grounds.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM
Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. P.G. #65-13

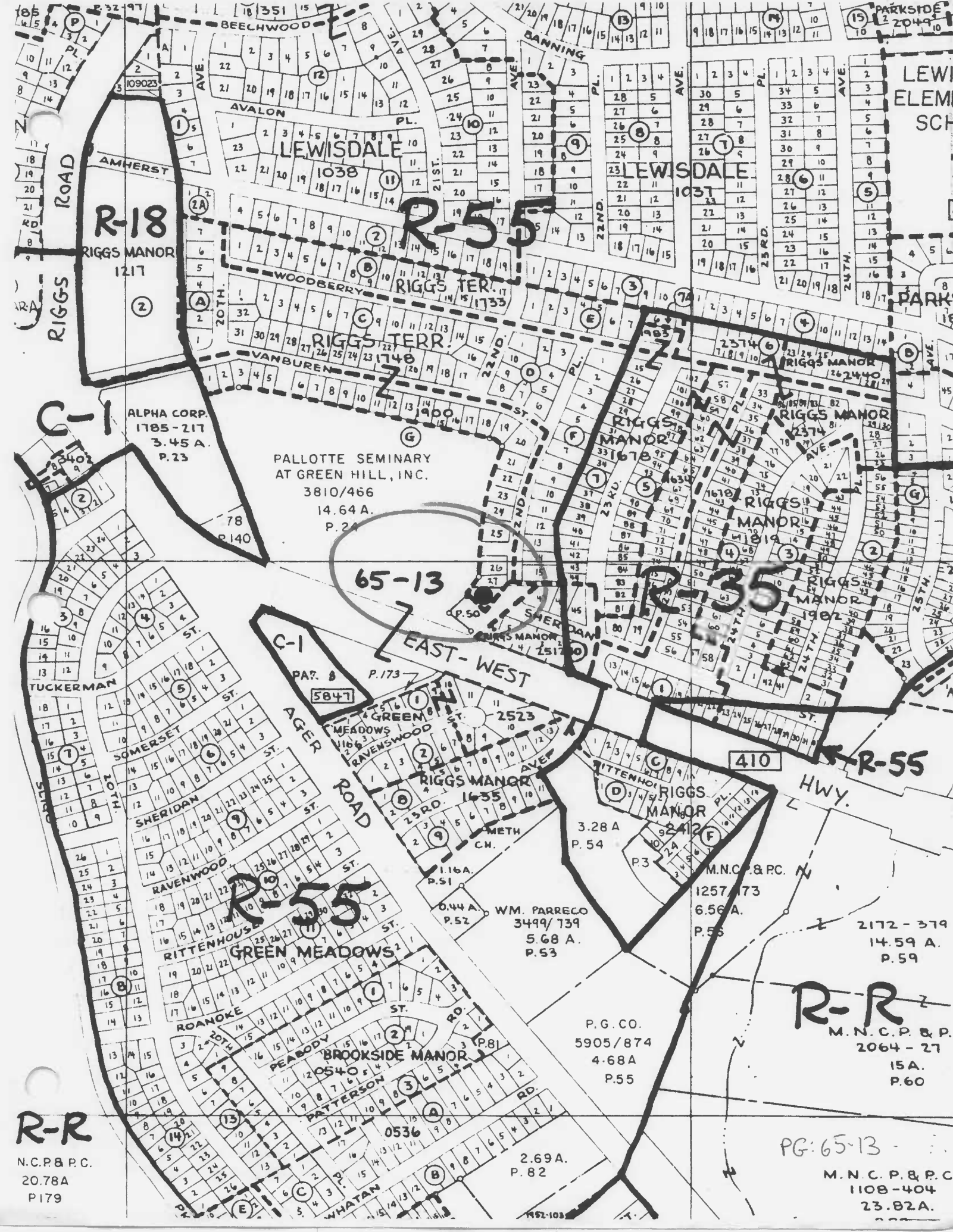
Section 8 Page 2

residential community. Small tract houses were built north of the overseer's house, and a fifteen foot right-of-way was created to give access from the subdivision to the older house. The current owners purchased the house in 1957, just after construction of East-West Highway (immediately south of the house) exposed it to public view.⁴

This is an outstanding example of a Colonial Revival house which mimics a type of eighteenth century vernacular dwelling of the Tidewater region. It has particularly fine detail in its flared eaves, pilastered corner boards, pedimented dormers and integral porch. Although somewhat obscured by landscaping from the East-West Highway, it is a landmark in its community, and a visual reminder of the early twentieth century prominence of Green Hill Farm.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed FS #1:824.
- 2 Washington Post, 24 February 1936.
- 3 Prince George's County Deed #469:30.
- 4 Prince George's County Deeds #1377:448; #1408:95; 2142:455; Plat WWW #19:74.



R-18

R-55

R-35

R-55

R-55

R-R

R-R

N.C.P. & P.C.
20.78A
P179

PALLOTTE SEMINARY
AT GREEN HILL, INC.
3810/466
14.64 A.
P.24

65-13

EAST-WEST

WM. PARRECO
3499/739
5.68 A.
P.53

P.G.CO.
5905/874
4.68A
P.55

M.N.C. & P.C.
1257/173
6.56 A.
P.55

2172 - 379
14.59 A.
P.59

PG: 65-13

M.N.C. & P.C.
1108-404
23.82A.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House
Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1986

~~West~~ elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House
Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1986

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
April 1986
North elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#65-13

Green Hill Overseer's House

Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

April 1986

West elevation, from Green Hill

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.